



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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CHINA HITS ALIBABA WITH \$2.78BN FINE FOR VIOLATIONS
The Jack Ma-led conglomerate accepted the penalty, capping a strict crackdown on abusing its dominant position in market

CRACKDOWN ON MONOPOLISTIC TENDENCIES
The market regulators' probe found that Alibaba had been prohibiting merchants using its platform from selling their wares on rival e-commerce sites. The probe said such a requirement harmed competition, innovation and the interests of sellers and buyers. Though hefty, the fine constitutes only around 4% of the firm's 2019 global sales, totalling \$70 billion

JACK MA BRUISED AFTER BRUSH WITH GOVT
Jack Ma's companies have been on regulators' radar after the billionaire struck a discordant note with Beijing in October last
His Ant Group's planned \$35 billion IPO was shelved earlier this year with the regulators demanding the firm to return to its roots of offering financial services. Other tech firms, too, were targeted

\$1 bn
THE PENALTY SLAPPED ON QUALCOMM IN 2015, WHICH WAS THE PREVIOUS HIGHEST

Sanjeevini to your Life, COVID-19 Vaccine VACCINATION MISSION
April 11th -14th, 2021

If you are above 45 years, get yourself vaccinated voluntarily for the safety of your health. Support to build COVID-19 Free Society

To register for the COVID-19 vaccine visit www.cowin.gov.in
If you have fever, cold, or any COVID-19 like symptoms, call the Apathmitra Helpline 14410

Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

Karnataka Information Department of Information and Public Relations



4 die in CISF firing in Bengal on polling day

Fired in self-defence, say forces: TMC blamed for 5th death

BAR ON POLITICOS' ENTRY
The Election Commission on Saturday put in place certain restrictions, including extending the 'silence period' from 48 hours to 72 hours, for the fifth phase of polling, scheduled on April 17. The poll watchdog also barred the entry of politicians in Cooch Behar district for the next 72 hours to prevent any law and order flare-up. Meanwhile, Bengal CM and TMC boss Mamata Banerjee said that her party will protest by wearing black badges on Sunday. She said that she will visit the area after the silence period ends.

PRANAB MONDAL
@ North Dinajpur (West Bengal)

VIOLENCE erupted in the fourth phase of election in West Bengal on Saturday, leaving five persons dead, four of them in Sitakuchi, Cooch Behar, after central forces opened fire on them. The fifth person, a first-time voter, was shot dead, allegedly by Trinamool Congress supporters, in the same area.

Other than the deceased, three others were also injured in the firing, police said. In an initial report, the police said CISF personnel opened fire after a group of 200-odd villagers allegedly attacked them and tried to snatch their weapons.

The Election Commission of India has sought a detailed report. The commission suspended polling in that booth and said the date of repolling will be announced soon.

Cooch Behar Superintendent of Police Debashish Dhar said the mob attacked the CISF personnel after a rumour that a child was beaten up by security

personnel in the area.

According to police sources, around 9.35 am, a Quick Reaction Team of the CISF, led by company commander Inspector Sunil Kumar, was attacked by a mob of 50-odd locals when they were patrolling along with local police personnel to clear unlawful assembly of villagers.

"The villagers scuffled with the security personnel in which a child fell down. The mob turned violent. The CISF personnel fired six rounds in the air. An SOS was sent and additional CISF personnel arrived at the spot," a police officer said.

Soon, another 200-strong group gathered and accused the CISF of beating the child. They assaulted a Home Guard and an Asha worker who were on duty at the booth, the police said.

"Some miscreants tried to snatch rifles from the CISF. The troops again fired two rounds in the air but the mob started advancing towards them. They then fired seven rounds towards the advancing mob," said an official.

CONTINUED ON: P10

Help pours in for Mysuru labourer to rebuild library

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A day after the library, set up by labourer Syed Isaaq (62) was burnt down by unidentified people, help poured in from everywhere to help him rebuild it. The New Indian Express had on Saturday reported about the library, containing over 11,000 books, including 3,000 copies of the Bhagavad Gita and a thousand copies of the holy Quran and the Bible, being torched by miscreants.

Unfazed by the turn of events, Isaaq had vowed to rebuild the library from the scratch. He even visited the site on Saturday morning to provide newspapers to his regular readers.

After reading the report in TNIE, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar personally called up Isaaq and offered help to rebuild the library. Commenting on the incident and expressing solidarity with Isaaq, Suresh Kumar told TNSE that Isaaq will be offered helped soon and promised to visit the spot in a week.

Later in the day, with the news going viral, an online fundraiser on popular crowdfunding site Keto.org, set up by Fathaheen Misbah, Technology Lead at Infosys, garnered support from across the globe, raising ₹7.3 lakh in just six hours.

CONTINUED ON: P5

WITH THIS ISSUE
INDIA'S NEW POWER TRIP
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE
NO PLACE LIKE THIS HOME

Nightmare revisited for uprooted labourers

MUKESH RANJAN, ANURAG SINGH & RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ Ranchi/Bhopal/Patna

THE worst nightmare has come true for a host of migrant labourers from Bihar, Jharkhand and UP. Jobless following the nationwide lockdown last year, they had just about started piecing their lives together when the second wave erupted. They have been forced to rush back home after their employers told them they were shutting operations, once again.

Most had gone back to their workplaces in Maharashtra, Gujarat and the National Capital Re-

gion or found something new, after the situation eased towards the end of 2020.

Several of them are under pressure to repay loans taken to survive the last year's ordeal. Hoping that things were falling in place after having worked for a few months, they are back to staring at uncertainty.

Mohammed Feroz from Siwan and Aditya Kumar from Buxar in Bihar barely had time to catch trains from Mumbai and Delhi, respectively, after being told by their employers about another looming lockdown.

"I didn't even go to my accom-



modation but headed straight for the station and luckily got a ticket," says Feroz, who had gone back to the barber shop where he used

to work. The 35-year-old, with five dependents, had borrowed ₹2,500 when he went back to Mumbai. Making ends meet, repaying the loan, Feroz has many questions and no answers.

Kumar returned to Patna on Saturday. He thought life had taken a turn for the good when the owner of the factory he worked at before lockdown recalled him in January. "He had promised support during bad days, but didn't do anything. It's better to sell vegetables in Bihar than to go to other states where employers stop behaving normally once talk of lockdown starts," says the 25-year-old.

CONTINUED ON: P9

NATION WIDE

	APRIL 9	APRIL 10
Fresh cases	1,31,968	1,45,384
Recoveries	61,899	77,567
Deaths	780	794

Active cases hit 10L-mark after 6 months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA on Saturday recorded the highest daily surge in Covid-19 cases at 1,45,384, taking the number of total cases to 1,32,05,092. As many as 794 Covid deaths were reported in the past 24 hours, which is also one of the highest daily surges in recent times.

With a sharp spike in infections, the number of active cases breached the 10-lakh mark again after six-and-a-half months, while the toll went up to 1,68,436, as per Union Health Ministry's data.

For 31 days now, there has been a steady increase in Covid-19 cases. The total active cases in the country became 10,46,631, accounting for 7.93% of its total caseload, while the national recovery rate further dropped to 90.80% from Friday's 91.22%. According to the Union Health Ministry, five states — Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, UP and Kerala — cumulatively account for 72.23% of the country's total active cases. Saturday's 794 fatalities included 301 from Maharashtra, 91 from Chhattisgarh and 56 from Punjab.

The Maharashtra government is likely to take a decision on reintroducing lockdown on Sunday.

P9

70% DIED OF COMORBIDITIES
The Health Ministry said that more than 70% of the deaths occurred due to co-morbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the ICMR," the ministry said on its website

ROADS EMPTY OUT AT 10 PM AS CORONA CURFEW KICKS IN



Police personnel set up barricades and keep vigil on MG Road, ahead of the enforcement of night curfew, in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH the 11-day 'corona curfew' coming into effect from 10 pm on Saturday, business establishments across Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Bidar, Tumakuru, Udipi-Manipal cities downed shutters well before the appointed hour. The night curfew will be in force between 10 pm and 5 am every day from April 10 to 20.

In Bengaluru, which has been recording the highest number of new Covid-19 cases in the second wave, all shops, restaurants, pubs and commercial establishments across city were forced shut much before 9.30pm on Saturday and hubs like Church Street and Brigade Road were a desert look.

Traffic thinned out after 10 pm and senior police officers were

monitoring the situation. About 47 flyovers across the city were closed to traffic and Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP), Home Guards, Civil Defence along with police personnel have been deployed for security. Around 10 pm, many people were seen at the Brigade Road junction waiting for cabs as police forced them to leave the area.

Most of the hotels around city also shut delivery services as the staff were asked to leave the premises. Very few cabs and autos were seen plying and

AUTHORISATION LETTER

In order to help industries function smoothly, the State Government has permitted the movement of employees to/from their work place, provided they carry an authorisation letter from their organisation, along with authentic ID cards.

KARNATAKA

	APRIL 10	APRIL 9
Fresh cases	6,955	7,955
Recoveries	3,350	3,220
Deaths	36	46

7.04%
Positivity Rate on April 10

98,790
Samples tested on April 10

56,26,481
Total vaccinations achieved so far

many people faced difficulties getting a cab on time. However, in Yelahanka Old Town, a couple of bars were open till 10.30pm but the local police claimed they were unaware of it.

The police also monitored movement of vehicles on Mysuru Road, KR Market, Chamaraipet, Koramangala, Trinity Circle, Anand Rao Circle, Peenya and other major junctions. All entry and exit points to the city have been sealed. Double roads have been converted to single-carriageways and barricades put up at many places.

A senior police officer said that if the police find vehicles moving unnecessarily, they will be sized and the police department will not issue any passes for the vehicles. The staff at the checking points will check vehicles which are allowed for essential services and transporting daily needs.

P7

In RCB anthem, Kannada illa yaake, ask fans

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ROYAL Challengers Bangalore fans are elated after the team's nail-biting two-wicket win over defending champions Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League 2021 opener on Friday night in Chennai. And why not? For, the Rohit Sharma-led side have always been the team to beat in the competition.

However, the mood amongst the passionate RCB fans in the state was not quite the same earlier



that day. They were a disappointed lot when, about eight hours prior to the fixture, the franchise

released its anthem on social media. It had come in for major criticism last season too, as it had just a few words in Kannada while most of it was in Hindi and English. The story did not change this edition too.

At a time where there is a debate over 'imposition of Hindi', some section of the fans have wanted the team to use 'Bengaluru' in the team name rather than Bangalore.

"The anthem was released in 2020 too, and they have not changed

it much this time. Only the new players have been added in the video. As RCB is a team from Bengaluru, one was expecting the anthem in Kannada, but there are just one or two lines," said Preetham Karigar from the Namma Team RCB fan club.

What is disconcerting for RCB fans is that many other teams across the league, like Chennai Super Kings, have tried to connect with fans, through Tamil which forms major part in its anthem.

CONTINUED ON: P7

Security forces battling militants in J&K

Srinagar: Security forces were engaged in exchange of fire with militants in Shopian and Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, on Saturday. The duel was still on at the time of going to print.

US warns Russia over aggression in Ukraine

Washington: The Biden administration is carrying a review of its policies against Russia over its aggression in Ukraine, and the White House has warned the Kremlin of "consequences".

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